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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,632	12/16/2003	Yeo-Hyung Yun	033494-010	2657

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, KIEN T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3712

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,632

Applicant(s)

YUN, YEO-HYUNG

Examiner

Kien T. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/16/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lau U.S. Patent 4,892,500.

Lau disclosed a bottle and connector assembly comprising at least one bottle (18) having an upper part forming a first liquid outlet mouth adapted to be sealed with a stopper, a lower part disposed on an opposite end of the bottle having a second liquid outlet mouth adapted to be sealed with a stopper, at least one connector member (plug) having at least a first connecting portion and a second connecting portion, the first and second connecting portions being connectable to either one of the first and second liquid outlet mouth (see column 4, lines 21-32) (applicant's claims 1, 7). Fig. 6 shows each of the at least one connector has more than two connecting portions, each connecting portion being connectable to either one of the first and second liquid opening mouths (applicant's claim 2). At least one subsidiary connector member (136, 138, 140), connector members, and bottles are adapted to be connected to form a three-dimensional structure as shown in Fig. 1 (applicant's claims 5, 6). The connector as shown in Figs. 4A-4C is linear (applicant's claim 10). Fig. 1 shows all of the structural features as set forth in claims 12-17 of the present application.

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Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Riordan U.S. Patent 6,105,812.

Riordan disclosed a bottle (10) forming a first liquid outlet mouth to be sealed with a stopper (32); a lower part having a second liquid outlet mouth to be sealed with stopper (32). The second outlet disposed on an opposite end of the bottle from the first outlet mouth. The second outlet mouth is disposed in a recess (25) in the lower part of the bottle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 4, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of Roark U.S. Patent 5,379,909.

It is noted that Lau does not specifically disclose the connecting portions each including a hole having an internal thread as set forth in these claims. However, Roark disclosed a bottle connector (Fig. 3) having a hole with an internal thread (10, 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector members of Lau with the internal thread as taught by Roark for the purpose of enhancing the connection between the bottles.

Claims 8, 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lau in view of Riordan U.S. Patent 6,105,812.

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It is noted that the bottle (18) of Lau failed to teach the second liquid outlet mouth is disposed in a recess in the lower part of the bottle. However, Riordan teaches a bottle having a second liquid outlet mouth disposed in a recess (25) in the lower part of the bottle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the bottle of Lau with the teaching of Riordan for the advantage of providing a smooth connection between the bottles.

Conclusion

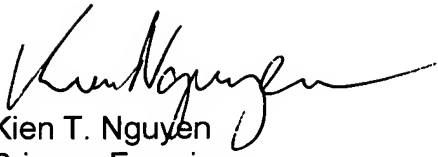
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The enclosed references are cited for interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kien T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM-5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (703) 308-1745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Kien T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3712

Ktn